

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05

AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 SAM-01 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /111 W

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TAGS: PO, UN, PFOR, AFIN, PORG

SUBJ: UN FINANCES - FINANCING OF UNEF

1. SUMMARY: PORTUGAL RECENTLY PROVIDED WEO FIFTH COMMITTEE DELS WITH MEMORANDUM STATING INTENT OF PORTUGAL TO SEEK REDUCTION IN ITS UNEF ASSESSMENT. MISSION BELIEVES THIS WOULD OPEN PANDORA'S BOX AND RESULT IN OTHER SEEKING REDRESS OF THEIR UNEF ASSESSMENT WHICH WOULD GREATLY COMPLICATE UNEF FINANCING QUESTION. END SUMMARY.

2. AT RECENT WEO FIFTH COMMITTEE MEETING PORTUGUESE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRIBUTED COPIES OF MEMORANDUM REQUESTING ASSISTANCE OF WEO MEMBERS IN MODIFYING PORTUGAL'S UNEF SCALE OF ASSESSMENT. MEMO POINTS OUT THAT WHEN UNEF SCALE ESTABLISHED BY UNGA IN 1973, AFRICAN MEMBERS OF GROUP OF 77 OBJECTED TO INCLUSION OF PORTUGAL IN LDC CATEGORY ON GROUNDS THAT AS A COLONIAL POWER IT SHOULD HAVE HIGHER ASSESSMENT. IN UNGA RESOLUTION 3101 (XXVIII), PORTUGAL WAS PLACED IN CATEGORY OF ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED AND ASSESSED ACCORDING TO ITS 1974/76 SCALE OF ASSESSMENT UNDER UN REGULAR BUDGET OR 0.155 PERCENT OF COST. PORTUGUESE AMENDMENT TO ABOVE-MENTIONED RESOLUTION WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEFEATED IN FIFTH COMMITTEE AT WHICH TIME PORTUGAL STATED

THAT "IT WOULD NOT CONSIDER ITSELF BOUND BY ANY DECISION TAKEN AND IT RESERVED THE RIGHT NOT TO CONTRIBUTE TO UNEF AS IT COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT...." MEMO POINTS OUT THAT WITH PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION IN APRIL, 1974 AND DECISION TO GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO PORTUGUESE COLONIES IN AFRICA, "A SITUATION OF NEITHER DE JURE NOR DE FACTOR COLONIALISM EXISTED."

3. AT 29TH UNGA, PORTUGUESE DEL DISCUSSED WITH OTHER WEO MEMBERS DESIRE TO LOWER ITS ASSESSMENT RATES FOR UNEF BUT AGREED NOT TO TAKE ANY INITIATIVE IN THIS DIRECTION SINCE IT MIGHT THREATEN EXISTENCE OF FORCE. ACCORDING TO MEMO, GROUP OF 77, WHILE SYMPATHETIC TO PORTUGAL DUE TO NEW CONDITIONS IN AFRICA, ASKED THAT PORTUGAL NOT OPEN QUESTION WITH IMPLICIT UNDERSTANDING THAT AT 30TH SESSION UNGA WHOLE QUESTION OF SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS WOULD BE REOPENED. MEMO CONCLUDES BY STATING THAT BECAUSE OF SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP, PORTUGAL MUST NOW "HAVE ITS ASSESSMENT CHANGED OR SOME APPROPRIATE AGREEMENT ARRIVED AT" IN ORDER TO REDUCE ITS COST SO AS TO "REMEDY VARIOUS SERIOUS FINANCIAL DILEMMAS RESULTING FROM EXISTING SITUATION."

4. COPY OF PORTUGUESE MEMO BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT (IO/ SEC-HENNES).

5. AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1975, PORTUGAL HAD NOT PAID ANY OF ITS UNEF ASSESSMENT, WITH TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$239,700 OUTSTANDING SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNEF IN OCTOBER, 1974 THROUGH OCTOBER, 1975.

6. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, UNEF SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS, WHILE BASED ON NATIONAL INCOME DATA, INCLUDES CERTAIN ANOMALIES RESULTING FROM POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. CASE IN POINT IS PORTUGAL. HOWEVER, IF PORTUGAL INSISTS ON OPENING EXISTING SCALE, AS APPEARS APPARENT FROM ABOVE-MENTIONED MEMO AS WELL AS STATEMENTS BY PORTUGUESE REP, THIS PROBABLY WOULD TRIGGER OTHERS TO SEEK REDUCTIONS IN THEIR UNEF ASSESSMENT AND THUS RUN COUNTER TO OUR VIEW, SHARED BY MANY OTHER DELS, THAT EXISTING SCALE SHOULD NOT BE TAMPERED WITH. WHILE WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN THAT IF PORTUGAL REMAINS SILENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON QUESTION OTHERS WILL NOT OPEN IT, IF PORTUGAL FOLLOWS THROUGH ON INTENT WE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT OTHERS WILL FOLLOW SUIT. IT IS IN OUR INTEREST, THEREFORE, THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO ENCOURAGE PORTUGAL NOT TO PRESS POINT IN HOPE THAT EXISTING SCALE CAN BE CONTINUED FOR ANOTHER YEAR. FINALLY, I WONDER WHETHER PORTUGUESE ASSERTION THAT \$239,700 ASSESSMENT ON PORTUGAL FOR UNEF OVER TWO YEAR PERIOD IS "SEVERE ECONOMIC HARDSHIP" IS NOT OVERDRAWN.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT RAISE MATTER WITH PORTUGUESE
AND ENCOURAGE THEM NOT TO PRESS FOCREDRESS IN THEIR UNEF
ASSESSMENT BECAUSE OF BROADER POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS
AND USUN AND LISBON BE AUTHORIZED TO DO LIKEWISE.
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